



**Arkansas  
Department of  
Human Services**

**Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive  
Systems Initiative (AECCS)**



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

**Health**

*Keeping Your Hometown Healthy*

**“Building Bridges----  
From Birth To School”**



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## ***Medical Homes Work Group***

An important goal of health care in early childhood is to provide parents with the advice, counseling, and support they need to provide the safest developmentally appropriate environment that they can for their young child. Many children with developmental, emotional, or behavioral problems are not identified until school entry and receive services even later.

The ***Medical Home*** concept is prescribed as the systemic solution to these problems. It asserts that all children deserve a health care “hub” to provide or coordinate all care that a child and family need. Assuring quality health care for young children requires not only health insurance and access to a primary care provider, but also a re-engineered system of developmental services.

### **Purpose:**

The Medical Homes Work Group strengthens the delivery of preventive health and developmental services in pediatric/primary health care settings and improves linkages between health care providers and other community-based programs serving families with young children under five.

### **Membership:**

The Medical Homes Work Group brings together perinatal and pediatric health care providers, local health departments, community health centers, statewide health care professional associations, parents, local business concerns, government agency staff and advocacy organizations.

### **Key Work Group Objectives:**

- Develop and implement funding strategies to support the provision of preventive health and developmental services in primary health care settings.
- Develop and promote targeted educational strategies to encourage primary health care settings to incorporate and strengthen the delivery of preventive health and developmental services in their practice.
- Identify opportunities to build linkages between primary health care settings and community-based programs serving families with children under five at the state and local levels.

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